

Routine Proceedings

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the honour to present four petitions signed by residents from various parts of the country, including the province of British Columbia.

The petitioners are adamantly opposed to the imposition of the goods and services tax. They believe it is very punitive in that it will affect low and middle income Canadians. It will affect a variety of the goods which they consume and will cause great difficulty to small and medium sized business. They call upon the Government of Canada to withdraw immediately the provisions of the goods and services tax.

SPORTS

Mr. Terry Clifford (London—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I have the good fortune to present a petition from many citizens in Ottawa indicating their feelings towards NHL expansion and the fact that Canada should be very much part of this expansion. The teams from Ottawa and Hamilton very much have to be considered. Canada has to stay on the front page of the foremost league in North America.

These citizens have brought this petition forward. The deadline is December 7. That is when the world will know whether Canada is going to be part of the future of the National Hockey League. Indeed, we cannot afford to lose our market share. Canada has to be part of it. I urge all members to take these petitions home to let Canadians show their support for Canada's greatest game.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold): Mr. Speaker, the petitions do keep coming in because of this dastardly GST.

Once again I have a petition to present from the people of Toronto and from my riding in St. Catharines who are very much opposed to the imposition of this tax. I have yet to have anyone in my riding approach me to say that this tax is acceptable to them. Once again I bring this before the government and ask them to reconsider the imposition of this tax on people who can least afford to pay.

ABORIGINAL LAND CLAIMS

Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Meritt): Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today under Standing Order 36 and present a petition, which speaks for itself. It states: "We the undersigned respectfully request the federal government to negotiate in good faith and in the spirit of justice with the people of Oka to resolve the present crisis. We expect that the Government of Canada will immediately act upon its authority and responsibility and deal in a just manner with the struggle of all aboriginal peoples in Canada to have their land claims and rights properly addressed. Inaction on the part of the federal authorities will only continue to antagonize race relations in Canada and provoke dangerous and ignorant acts of racism".

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Meritt): Mr. Speaker, my second petition is from the people of Oliver, Osoyoos, Okanagan Falls and Penticton in their effort to block the goods and services tax. These people are opposed to this tax and have asked the government to stop the proposal and bring in real tax reform that is fair to all Canadians.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the duty to table today a petition signed by Canadians who are vigorously opposed to a tax on reading, books and all printed materials.

These petitioners, who are very angry at the proposal put forth by the Conservative government, state that the uninhibited dissemination of the printed word is a cornerstone of democracy, culture and education. They argue that a literate and productive society can only be negatively affected by such a plan to tax books. Mr. Speaker, these people, like me, strongly believe that to tax books is to promote illiteracy.

[*English*]

FOOD AND DRUGS

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure of presenting a petition signed by a number of Canadians from the Brantford area, as well as from Nova Scotia, who are concerned about the recent death this year of a young girl, due to a food allergy.

The petitioners call upon Parliament to enact appropriate legislation and regulations that would require